



Groundwater Well-Drilling Milestone Changes

Public Comment - September 29 to November 13

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies- want your input on an integrated approach and schedule to groundwater monitoring-well installation at Hanford.

Currently, Tri-Party milestone 24 (M-24) only addresses Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) groundwater monitoring requirements. It does not address an integrated strategy and approach for overall protection, monitoring, and remediation of groundwater on the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington State.

In recent years, changes in groundwater flow and a declining water table in some areas have resulted in a need for new wells to be installed. The new wells will be used to:

- determine the nature and extent of existing groundwater contamination
- conduct and assess the effectiveness of groundwater remediation and cleanup
- provide subsurface access for geohydrologic characterization.

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The proposed changes to M-24 call for USDOE to install RCRA and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) groundwater monitoring, assessment, and remediation wells at a minimum of 15 new wells by December 2003, and an additional 15 wells each year until a total of 60 wells are installed by December 2006. These wells will also be used to satisfy Atomic Energy Act (AEA) requirements at USDOE's discretion. USDOE will continue to install wells until the TPA agencies agree that sufficient groundwater wells are in place to comply with RCRA and CERCLA requirements

Impact of Changes:

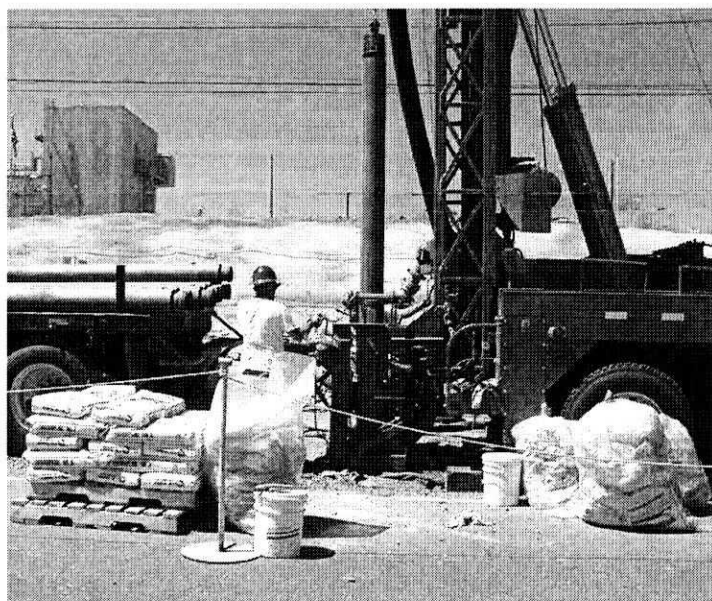
These changes will enable the TPA agencies to obtain information that will allow them to do a better job of protecting groundwater and determining priorities for cleanup.

For the first time it will allow RCRA, CERCLA and AEA requirements to be incorporated into an overall strategy for groundwater protection, monitoring, and remediation.

Drilling wastes will be properly and safely disposed of in the Hanford Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) based on existing ERDF disposal requirements.

View the change package at <http://www.hanford.gov/tpa/changelist.htm> or contact the Hanford Cleanup line at 800-321-2808, to request a hard copy.

Hard copies are also available for review at the public information repositories listed on the next page.



Hanford monitoring well construction.

Please contact one of the Hanford Public Information Repositories listed below to view a complete copy of the M-24 change package.

RICHLAND:

Consolidated Information Center - Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
WSU Tri-Cities
Telephone: (509) 372-7443
Contact: Janice Parthree
Email: reading_room@pnl.gov

SEATTLE:

Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
University of Washington
Telephone: (206) 543-4664
Contact: Eleanor Chase
Email: echase@u.washington.edu

PORTLAND:

Branford Price Millar Library
934 Southwest Harrison
Portland State University
Telephone: (503) 725-3690
Contact: Michael Bowman
Email: bowman@lib.pdx.edu

SPOKANE:

Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Gonzaga University
Telephone: (509) 323-3839
Contact: Connie Scarppelli
Email: carter@its.gonzaga.edu



Comments must be recieved by close of business on November 13, 2003. The agencies will consider all comments before proposed changes are made final. There are no public meetings planned at this time; however the agencies will consider requests for a meeting.

Written comments may be submitted by mail or email to the addresses below.

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